July 27, 2020

Charter School Institute
1600 North Broadway #1250
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Charter School Review Team:

The Ute Mountain Ute Elder Committee fully support the Kwiyagat Community Academy. The Kwiyagat Community Academy, a proposed Ute Mountain Ute language and culture charter school in Towaoc, Colorado, will be an important and critical new addition to the educational services in the Towaoc community, when it opens in Fall 2021.

As Elders of our community and living on our Ute Homeland all our lives, we saw many changes, from the time we lived with our parents, grand-parents, etc. We were raised with discipline, love, respect, sharing and caring for each other. Children of today don't have what we grew up with, we say, they are raised by computers and modern technology. Our children need to see beyond the reservation.

Not that we as Elders want our children to leave the reservation, but to do something useful with their lives and make something of their lives. They are important and their Education is important. Our Culture, Language and Traditions need to be revived and we can assure that they are brought back in the Kwiyagat Community Academy.

Some of us went to Boarding Schools. The treatment of Native students was inhuman. We were told NOT to SPEAK UTE! We were punished for speaking our language, our hair was cut. Our pride and dignity stripped. They called it "civilized". We do not want that treatment for our students.

The Elder Committee believes that we can encourage students and assist the Kwiyagat Community Academy in the following areas:

(1) Summer 2020-Fall 2021 during start-up phase
During the startup phase, the committee will assist with planning the language program and storytelling for the Kwiyagat Community Academy.
Betty Howe, Language Specialist will plan the language curriculum working with the Elder Committee to ensure that the curriculum is specific to the Ute Mountain Ute language.

(2) Fall 2021-on-going during school operations
Betty Howe and Afrem Wall will be the Ute Language Teachers as well as the Ute History Teachers when the school opens in the fall of 2021.

(3) Elders will be a part of the Academy and will be welcome to interact, tell stories and teach the students traditional Ute ways and encourage them to learn the Ute Traditions and language.

The Elder Committee is looking forward to being a partner of this school and teaching the youth of the Towaoc Community many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Chairman, Alfred Wall Jr. Elder: Loretta Posey Elder Colleen C. Root

Elder: Imogene Pelt Elder: Floyd Morris Elder: Betty Howe

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